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EXERPTS FROM AMY OUCHLEY'S SCRAPBOOK DATED 1988 FROM HERMIONE

PINCH-EM-EASY=OWNED BY MRS. REID WATTS

The barn on this plantation located on the south end of of Madison Parish almost at the Tensas Parish line just before highway 603 turns into Highway 65 South.

"The barn on this place was built by German prisoners in the early 1900's, according to Mrs. Watts. After Completion of the barn the workmen placed a "huge tree branch" on top of the new building. Many people asked her about the branch but Mrs. Watts didn't know the reason. Finally she learned from one of the Germans, that could speak sketchy English.'it was an old custom when something good was built to put a tree branch on it'

About the name of the farm, Mrs. Watts told this story which is recorded in the two-inch thick deed abstract of the land.'Way back when somebody came to buy the farm, they told the owner 'pinch me easy cause I don't have much money'. After that the place was always known as 'pinch-em-easy." (1988)

HERMIONE OWNERS

McCaffreys owned Hermione in 1920. Capt. Jack McCaffrey was once a pilot of the Mississippi River steamer "Sprague" in Vicksburg (1920) Photo in scrap book, made by Amy Ouchly dated 1988, in possession of Kirk Morley.

NORMAN FRISBY HOUSE LOCATED ON TENSAS RIVER JUST WEST OF TALLULAH. TODAY (1997) IS INCLUDED IN THE TENSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(Picture from Ouchly scrapbook) Nine tattered columns are all that remains on the banks of the Tensas of the old "brick house" site, the brick mansion built by Norman Frisby during the Civil War. For years treasure hunters have scoured the area in search of a huge silver bell and other treasure Frisby is said to have left behind. Tales of Frisby's visciious nature and cruelty to his slaves have been told many times and still enchant eager listeners. Frisby was allegedly killed by his brother-in-law. Flowers with a knife over a dispute about a mule. The demise of this site may mark the passing of one of the last monuments of that era.

(Picture from Ouchly scrapbook) This is how the brick house appeared in the 1920's according to Tensas River N.W.R. biotechnician, Talbert Williams. According to Williams, the brick walls were blasted by treasure hunters in seach of the silver bell. Recently, he says, the remaining columns have been damaged by loggers in the area. The acreage of the brickhouse site is now owned by Winnsboro farmer, Landis Magee, and is surrounded by the refuge (1988)

"Frisbee house if located on the banks of the Tensas River just across the Madison Parish line in northern Tensas parish.

Once a magnificent brick mansion was built by plantation and slave owner, Norman Frisby, in the days during the Civil War. Farther down river a brick chimney towers up through ancient cedar trees, the location of the steam-powered cotton gin.

Almost everyone knows two "word of mouth" tales about Frisby, his cruel disposition and his cache of a large silver bell and perhaps gold somewhere deep within the swamp.

Folklore maintains the gypsies who used to camp in the swamp to hunt the treasure would have the bell almost in their grasp, but misfortune would befall and it would "sink even deeper beyond their reach.
Some say Frisby dropped the bell down an old well.'

Louis Buckner has a secret divulged to him by the late Mason Spencer "Back in thosae days all the country people would come to town to go to court and have a good time. One day the crowd got wrought up over a case being tried and decided they were going to have a lynching. Mason Spencer claimed that he saved the man fromthe lynching. The man came to Spencer in the dark of night and told him he appreciated him saving his life but he had nothing to repay Spencer with except that he could tell him where Frisby's sliver bell was buried. Spencer told me and one of these days I'm going to try and get it. But until then I'm not going to tell anyhbody where it is."

Where 32 stately columns stood decorated with an inlaid arch of bricks, nine tattered stragglers remain encrusted with grey lichens.

Reference: Sam Hanna's comprehensive pamphlet "Empire in the Delta"
Jerry McCarty, "Louisiana-Mississippi Treasure Leads."

MOUND STORE (1997 STRUCTURE WILL BE 94 YEARS OLD) LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUND, LA. ON INTERSTATE I-20.

The village of Mound was named for three very large prehistoric mounds located just at the bend of highway 602 just south of the village. All three of these tall mounds were chronicled by state archaeologists, destroyed and then incorporated the soil into the surrounding fields.

LIGE BINGHAM HAS LIVED IN MADISON PARISH SINCE THE EARLY 1940'S AND HAS A SMALL FARM OUT AT FORTUNE FORK. HE USED TO WORK AT J. K. POST SAWMILL AND WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH MARIAH NICHOL'S HUSBAND, CAREY NICHOLS. NOW LIGE MANAGES A FEW HEAD OF STOCK AND PASSES HIS DAYS VISITING WITH FOLKS UNDER THE CEDAR TREES. LIGE HAS ON HIS "FARMIN' CAP IN THE ACCOMPLANYING PICTURE. (OUCHLEY SCRAPBOOK)

Lige lives on his small farm at Fortune Fork. He doesn't do much these days, but sit and doze in the shade of a cedar tree he planted some 40 years ago and watch his glossy black cow graze in the pasture out in the purple hulls he's planted. He keeps a sow and four of her young'ums under his house, a brood sow and her litter in the shed, and a few chickens in the yard. They are his companions, his family so to speak.

Mariah Nichols rediscovered her husband's old friend through volunteer work and voter registration.

According to Ebb Ferguson, director of the local Veteran's Affairs office, and Lige's voter registration records, Lige's birthdate is September 1, 1896. Lige entered the service on Sept. 25, 1918 and fought in World War I. He war born in Richland Parish and registered to vote in 1983.

All Lige has to say about his age is "I've been here a time," and that's all that really metters. He says he wants to keep 'mosin along' about another 20 years.

Lige and Carrie Johnson, who turned 105 last January, may be some of Madison Parish's oldest residents. Mrs. Nichols carried them both to a festival at the Pecanland Mall in July and they were awarded solid brass keys for being the oldest man and woman in the mall. Lige words on old age"He's took good care of me. The doctors, they've helped Him out a few times".

He came to Madison Parish in the early 40s and purchased his farm from the United States on July 24, 1944, according to the deed at the courthouse.

In his younger days; he worked at the J. K. Post Sawmill at the Englewood bridge and Clerk of Court Billy Post has fond memories of Lige. I grew up with him and he helped raise me. We logged with mules back then and crosscut saws. Thjey were always pickin on me but I enjoyed it. We would go down the log camps and stay out in the woods.

Lige is worried about the younger generation and thinks "a lot of them are messed up". His advice to them is "Quit smoking, go to bed early, quit sittin up late at night and eat plenty of nourishin food"

POCHE'S STORY (POCHE SHIELDS ADAMS)

THIE IS THE STORY OF POCHE ADAMS AND PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

This is the story of the silver spoon sent to Poche by President Roosevelt. The month was October and the year was 1907. Having been born in 1905, she was only two years old and doesn't remember the visit. But, of course, her family dold her the story many times after she got bigger.

My Father (Leo Shields) was a plantation manager on a plantation like Ashleyh. We lived in East Carroll Parish just north of the Madison Parish Line. Mr. J. M. Parker got up theh huint. He was the governor of Louisiana and friendly with Teddy Roosevelt. They concocted the idea that it would be good for the southern state if Roosevelt were to come and hunt in Lou9isiana.

Roosevelt did come to Louisiana to hunt the black bear. Five years before in 1902 he'd had what he called a "most unsatisfactory experience in a bear hunt in Mississippi. The guides attempting to please him tied the only bear they could find to a tree and asked Roosevelt to shoot it. Roosevelt refused. The incident was immortalized by a famous cartoonist, Clifford Berryman, and the Teddy Bear is said to have been inspired by Berryman's cartoon. Afterward the Teddy Bear became Roosevelt's trademark.

Roosevelt hunted around Bear Lake in Madison Parish and killed a bear. He wrote an excellent account of the hunt "In the Louisiana Canebreaks."

After the hunt he spent the night at the Shield's home. Poche said her mother fixed the president a good southern meal and around the supper table her father mentioned to Roosevelt they did not have a post office. They got their mail off the steamboats on the Mississippi River at a nearby landing, Stamboul. "No sooner said than done" was what Roosevelt said. Leo Shields replied, We'll have the hnor of naming it Roosevelt.

When Roosevelt went back to Washington, he did establish a post office and it was named Roosevelt. A historical marker identifies the location on Highway 65 north.

The inscrption reads: "To little Mip Agnes Tabitha Shields with all good wishes for her future, from Theodore Roosevelt, October 21, 1907. According to Poche, "Mip" was a term of affection used for small girls.

The spoon is embossed on both sides and "Agnes" is engraved on the back of the dish of the spoon. On the front of the dish is a scene of the Capitol and is inscribed "The Capitol Washington, D.C. The handle of the spoon looks like a brick chimney.

A solemn little Teddy Bear is on the end of the spoon with his arms down by his side. This bear has a serious look on his face. His fur and tail are embossed on the silver. Poche said it looked like a little monkey to her.

Years later Mrs. Adams unveiled a marker on Bear Lake at the spot where Roosevelt killed his bear.